



ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Council Communications
Atlanta City Hall
55 Trinity Ave. S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303

CONTACT:

Dexter M. Chambers
Council Communications Director
(404) 330-6309/392-0159
dchambers@atlantaga.gov

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**Atlanta fighters receive surprise visitor and a show of appreciation from
City Councilmember Michael Julian Bond**

ATLANTA – Atlanta City Councilmember Michael Julian Bond was joined by celebrity drag racer Leah Pritchett on Thursday in thanking members of Atlanta Fire Rescue Department for their dedicated service and for their participation in the Save-A-Blitz Campaign.

Bond and Pritchett, who is in Atlanta for the Saturday's NHRA Southern Nationals at the Atlanta Dragway, visited Fire Station No. 1 to deliver gift bags to Atlanta's courageous.

Atlanta firefighters have joined Councilmember Bond and the Ronnie Thames Foundation in visiting homes to test and replace smoke detectors, distribute free hand held fire extinguishers and educate citizens on fire safety. Carbon monoxide detectors are also tested or replaced. The campaign kicked off in 2015 and continues throughout city.

"Being proactive and educating our citizens on improving health and safety is a top priority and it felt good to spend quality time talking with our heroes; our fire fighters who are out front everyday helping, supporting and caring for our city," Bond said.

The councilmember started the door-to-door campaign because fire safety is one of the many challenges communities face today. Annually house fires claims the lives of thousands of Americans. Two out of three house fire deaths occur in homes where the smoke detectors are either disabled or non-existent.

So far this year, nearly 1,000 house fire deaths have been reported in the U.S, according to the U.S. Fire Administration. In Georgia 41 house fire fatalities have been reported since January 1, including nine in the City of Atlanta.



Atlanta City Councilmember Michael Julian Bond and Leah Pickett (center), members of the Atlanta Fire Rescue Department and representatives from the Ronnie Thames Foundation, a non-profit organization committed to fire safety pre-education, and to helping children and their families when their lives have been forever changed by a fire.